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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING




MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

July 24, 2006

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Local/Private Elementary School and Public School Academy Principals

**FROM:** Mike Flanagan,  Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT:** Additional Training for 2006-2007 Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary Schools Program - Elementary School Cycle

The Michigan Department of Education has conducted the Blue Ribbon Exemplary Schools Award Program for over 23 years. The program's purpose is to recognize highly effective schools throughout the state. The 2006-2007 Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary Schools Award Program is open to both public and private elementary schools who meet extremely high standards and undergo a rigorous peer review. Schools that have met the AYP requirement and received an A or B grade on their 2005-2006 report card are eligible to apply.

There are two very good reasons why a school building should consider this process:

1. Self-reflection: Research in the area of school improvement has shown that schools with a common vision are successful in increasing student achievement. The Blue Ribbon process is very effective in assisting schools to focus their efforts and vision.
2. Recognition: The program is designed to provide program analysis, a peer review, and an on-site visitation at no additional external cost to the district. Furthermore, selected school buildings receive state recognition for their efforts.

The major components that qualify a school for state recognition are: 1) the school staff has developed a number of exemplary programs, and 2) the school's performance indicates success.

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The Michigan Department of Education will host an additional Blue Ribbon technical assistance informational workshop in Lansing on "The How and Why of Preparing a Blue Ribbon Application" that we strongly recommend you attend. Please refer to the training session itinerary for meeting details, which is attached. Applications and background information will be available at the technical assistance workshop.

If you have any questions, please leave a message for Rick Jones at (517) 373-4213 or by e-mail at [LindemanJL@michigan.gov](mailto:LindemanJL@michigan.gov).

Attachment

cc: LEA and ISD Superintendents  
Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association